



Sustainable Arlington

An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington

Agenda

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Minutes for March 24, 2021

1. Attendees.
 - a. Tom Ehbrecht
 - b. Dan Race
 - c. Charlotte Milan
 - d. Rachel Oliver's
 - e. Brucie Moulton
 - f. Sarah hill
 - g. Roger Rosen
 - h. Gina Sonders
 - i. Dave Rogers
 - j. Jamie Kuhn
 - k. Laura Kiesel
2. Update from Planning Dept.
3. approved February minutes. read here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pcV1xqFVm9YzJ4Pz1re2Z19T2lFiSmitN3ESkpKALg/edit>
4. Arlington Eco Week (May). Charlotte Milan, Arlington Recycling Coordinator; Rachel Oliveri, Arlington Public Schools Sustainability Coordinator. Opportunities to collaborate. (combining with EcoFest as a hybrid of talks and socially distanced events) Proposed dates Mid- May. Charlotte Milan. Looking to finalize topics/ events
5. Discuss & vote: What priorities and benchmarks for action should Sustainable Arlington choose? Examples:
 - a. **Chosen:** Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan – collaborate with Clean Energy Future Committee. Press Release. Net Zero Action Plan.
 - b. **Chosen:** Transition off fossil fuels – outreach re why, when, how

- c. Massachusetts climate, environmental and energy legislation (see: Mass Power Forward, Mass Renews, Gas Leaks Allies; Rep. Sean Garballey and Rep. Dave Rogers)
- d. **Chosen:** Local ecosystem(s) support in Arlington:
 - i. i. Water quality
 - ii. ii. Soil health
 - iii. iii. Native plant and wildlife systems
- e. **Chosen:** Environmental Justice
 - i. How does environmental justice apply in Arlington, in nearby communities, and across Massachusetts? What does it mean to be an ally? (see resources below)
 - f. Solid waste and plastics reduction- collaboration with zero waste
- 6. Discussed Laura Kiesel's two warrant articles on affordable housing.
 - a. Density- one out of 4 rather than one out of 6 units must be affordable
 - b. 2 Affordable housing trust funds should be allocated to those under 60% of area median income.
- 7. Awaiting update on Warrant Article by Elaine Crowder: Pre-construction Rodent Survey and Pest Management. [Link here](#)
- 8. State climate and energy legislation updates
 - a. Next-Generation Roadmap climate bill, <https://malegislature.gov/bills/192/S9> passed both houses with veto proof majorities.
 - b. Two house bills are of note: H 3344 to require net zero stretch codes for green communities by 2025 and H1296 to allow communities to decide to ban new fossil fuel hookups. This would support homeroom positions like Arlington's.
- 9. Report on March 13th Carbon Countdown 2021
 - a. Appreciation to Arlington Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers for attending.
 - b. Dave Rogers also joined our call tonight.
 - c. Update on key legislation in progress.
 - d. Survey of attendees. What programs in the works, etc
 - e. Ten breakouts- net zero plans, geo micro grids, health impacts of natural gas, municipal tools for getting off fossil fuels.
 - f. Sustainable middlesex will become a year round org.
- 10. Mystic-Charles Pollinator Pathways Group and Massachusetts
 - a. Pollinator Network updates
 - b. EarthWise Aware, <https://www.earthwiseaware.org/>, local citizen science opportunities
- 11. New business
- 12. . Announcements
 - a. Upcoming Actions:
 - i. Stop Peabody Plant Actionar, Tues., March 23, 6 pm Learn about the impacts of a proposed, gas-fired power plant in Peabody, MA and what you can do. Register: https://www.massclimateaction.org/stop_peabody_plant_actionar

- ii. Northeast Summit for a Sustainable Built Environment (NESSBE) POWER OF PLACE: Climate action and justice in the built environment, March 25-26, 2021 (Virtual Event). <https://www.nessbe.net/>
- b. Zero Carbon Home webinar with David Green, April 8, 7:30-9 pm. Pre-register here to receive the Zoom link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zero-carbon-zero-bills-for-arlington-tickets-141357517139>
- c. Fill out the Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways Map Home Garden Survey. Record pollinator gardens in our region and then help fill in the gaps on the pollinator pathways. Info: mysticcharles.pollinatorpaths@gmail.com.

Resources:

1. Environmental Justice

- a. Mass. map of Environmental Justice communities: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>; interactive map: http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/ej.php
- b. "Mapping Project Explores Links Between Historic Redlining And Future Climate Vulnerability," WBUR, 3.6.2021, [ow.ly/FNrn50E3tIT](https://www.wbur.com/news/360/2021/03/06/mapping-project-explores-links-between-historic-redlining-and-future-climate-vulnerability)
- c. "White people challenging Racism," Wednesdays May 12- June 9, Arlington Community Education. <https://arlington.ce.eleyo.com/course/674/spring-2021/white-people-challenging-racism-moving-from-talk-to-action>
- d. "The History Of White People In America, Episode One: How America Invented Race," part of a WGBH series. <https://www.wgbh.org/programs/2020/07/06/the-history-of-white-people-in-america-episode-one-how-america-invented-race?fbclid=IwAR3hIOcHtxi98cVsH5pS9mRss1mkFFyRfpzdAEWaNBAESzpzKoXG5kjuKpk>

2. Zero Waste Arlington: No Plastic Please campaign

- a. To reduce single use plastic utensils (e.g., with takeout), <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/zero-waste-committee>

Visit Sustainable Arlington:

<http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sustainable%20arlington%20group>